

OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Weather: Some notable precipitation was reported in many areas, especially earlier in the week in eastern Oregon. Some local heavy showers occurred in Washington County; elsewhere in western counties, rainfall was spotty and not very significant. Some snow and rain showers in Baker County; Union County also saw some snowfall in higher elevations. Gilliam County saw some heavy thunderstorms over the weekend. Harney County had some hard mid-week frost, with temperatures in the twenties. Precipitation in Morrow County is approaching the long term average, but the drought of the past several years is still showing its effects. Average temperatures generally fell in the upper forties and fifties; Grants Pass recorded a high of 80 degrees during last week.

Field Crops: Statewide, the dry conditions continued to push crop development well ahead of last year's pace. First cutting alfalfa and other hay is being harvested in many areas, especially in the western part of the State. Thunderstorms brought much needed moisture to northeastern Oregon early last week. Most of the winter wheat was just starting to produce heads. In Morrow County, the spring wheat, barley and oats crops are entering the early boot stage.

Vegetables: Vegetable gardens were busy with planting and cultivation. Planting progressed on schedule. Spring salad greens were ready for market. Some transplanting of tomatoes and other crops that are sensitive to cold was underway. Early crops such as onions, peas and carrots were looking very good. Some sweet corn was up, while later plantings continued. Early planted potatoes in Washington County were closing rows. In Klamath County, potato planting continued. Elsewhere in eastern Oregon, planting was pretty well finished.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nursery and greenhouse sales were still doing well. Selling of balled and burlapped trees and shrubs and foliage plants continued. Easter lily growers on the southern Oregon coast were monitoring fields for Botrytis fungus and aphid insects. More farmers markets were opening for the season and those already up and running continued doing excellent business. Irrigation at nurseries in Clackamas County is becoming more common.

Fruit and Nuts: Strawberries were ripening about two weeks ahead of normal. Some early local strawberries were going to roadside stands and farmers markets. Caneberries were blooming. Most fruit trees have a full set of fruit. Vineyards were showing lots of growth and some varieties were in bloom. Hazelnuts looked good and walnuts were forming. In Wasco County, sweet cherries were nearing pit hardening and beginning to turn to a straw color, approximately ten days ahead of schedule. Royal Anne cherries were starting to show pink color. Activities in fruit orchards included irrigation, spraying and mowing grass strips between tree rows. In Coos County, many cranberry beds were in hook and early bloom stages. Growers were arranging to have bees placed for pollination service.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Scattered precipitation across eastern Oregon helped improve or at least maintain rangeland and pasture conditions. Water levels in ponds, springs, and creeks in dryland areas remained very much below normal. Producers were hauling water to livestock and rotating cattle to new rangeland earlier than usual. Most rangeland continued to show drought stress and needs additional moisture to improve. Livestock were reported in good condition. Pastures were reported as good to excellent in most of western Oregon. Some areas could use additional rain, but overall western Oregon conditions were reported favorable. Cattle producers continued working herds.

Crop Progress - Week Ending 5/16/04

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Barley planted (%)	92	88	74	92
Barley emerged (%)	72	65	56	—
Spring wheat emerged (%)	89	85	77	—
Winter wheat headed (%)	28	11	6	10
Days suitable for fieldwork	5.8	6.5	—	—

Soil Moisture - Week Ending 5/16/04

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	3	43	53	1
Subsoil (%)	6	42	50	2

Crop Condition - Week Ending 5/16/04

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat (%)	1	16	39	36	8
Barley (%)	—	6	29	48	17
Range & Pasture (%)	4	11	43	34	8

CLACKAMAS: Light rain aided grain and hay crops, but more is needed. Strawberries starting to ripen, over two weeks ahead of normal. Caneberries in full bloom. Most fruit trees have a full set. Vegetable planting is progressing on schedule. Spring salad greens are ready for market. The marketing rush of nursery and greenhouse products has eased somewhat. Irrigation at nurseries is becoming more prevalent. Livestock are in good condition. Most pastures are still holding up pretty well, but a good rain would be helpful.

COOS/CURRY: Topsoil moisture estimate: 5% Short, 90% Adequate, 5% Surplus. Seven days were suitable for fieldwork during the week. Many cranberry beds were in hook and early bloom stages of development. Growers were arranging to have bees placed for pollination service; some growers were placing pheromone-baited traps to monitor blackheaded fireworm and cranberry girdler insects. Easter lily growers in Curry County were monitoring fields for Botrytis fungus and aphid insects. Pastures are good to excellent. Some fields were harvested for silage. Precipitation was insignificant; more sunshine at Brookings than Bandon; air temperatures little changed from previous week; soil temperatures about the same or somewhat cooler. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 54.1 to 54.5 deg F; highs ranged from 61.2 to 66.6 deg F, and lows ranged from 44.4 to 44.9 deg F. Precipitation ranged from 0.07 inches at Brookings-Harbor to 0.10 inches at Bandon. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 37 GDD at Bandon to 44 GDD at Brookings-Harbor.

JACKSON: Grain beginning to head. Some grasses cut for hay. First cover sprays being completed. Orchards being irrigated. Planting of sweet corn continues; transplanting of tomatoes and other cold sensitive crops underway. Most grain crops are planted, but still a few fields being worked. Both grass and alfalfa crops looking quite good, with some fields about ready to cut. Cover sprays being applied to both apples and pears. Vineyards are showing lots of growth, and some varieties in bloom. Vegetable gardens are busy with planting and cultivation. Early crops that were planted (onions, peas, carrots, etc.) are looking very good. Greenhouses very busy getting out vegetable starts and flower starts, pots and some hanging baskets. Nurseries still selling balled and burlapped trees and shrubs and foliage plants. Cattle, sheep, horses, and other forage animals are looking quite good with lots of good pasture. Some cattle and calves being branded and getting shots so they will be ready for open range. Topsoil still has enough moisture to push good growth. Most irrigation districts are now operating with adequate water supplies. Farmers markets are up and running their weekly sales. A good week for most farm and ranch work.

JOSEPHINE: Grapes are blooming. Apples are about thumbnail size and growing quickly. Truck farmers are plowing, disking, and ditching. Local strawberries are selling now. Cool weather crops are doing very well. Blueberries are still ripening and the large fields are under irrigation now. Hay will be cutting in another week or so, weather permitting. Weather has been just wonderful for hay.

LANE/LINN/BENTON: Early strawberries coming to market. Plum and prunes light crop in some areas. Cherry fruit fly out up north already. Peaches moderate to low crop. Pears good; apples large crop. Blueberries moderate crop. Black and raspberries looking good. Grapes are near bloom. Vegetable plants going in. Greenhouse and nursery sales still going well.

MARION: Most crops look fair to good. Things continue to be a bit dry; could use more rain. Lots of perennial ryegrass and tall fescue seed fields getting irrigated. Seeing some Cereal Leaf beetle in some fields. Rust is pretty bad in some perennial ryegrass fields, not present yet in others. Hop yards are mostly trained for the second time. All crops look good and continue to mature ahead of normal, but the shortage of rain necessitates early irrigation and applications where possible on normally non-irrigated crops. Strawberries are getting ripe, about two weeks early.

WASHINGTON: Small grains above average. Red clover ready to be cut. Crimson clover setting seed. Spot spraying and weed pulling in grassfields. Some alfalfa put up; some got wet. Early strawberries at roadside stands and farmers markets. Cane and raspberries blooming. Cherries set. Filberts looking good. Walnuts forming. Potatoes closing in early planting. Some sweet corn up, others in rotation staggered planting. Plants for summer crop selling well. Nursery crop rotation continues. Pasture holding up well. Some local heavy showers. Temperatures range from low 40 degrees to high 76 degrees.

YAMHILL: The cherry fruit fly emerged on Tuesday, which was 16 days ahead of last year's emergence date. Clover silage started in earnest this week. Some reports of grass hay being cut. Tall fescue completely headed out, other grasses not far behind. Strawberries being picked in the Dayton area for fruit stands.

BAKER: Grain and potato planting essentially finished. Some alfalfa seeding underway. Cattle doing well. Snow and rain showers for a couple of days helped the range some, but for some areas it is too little and too late.

GILLIAM: An intense thunderstorm Saturday afternoon dropped between 0.3 and 0.5 inches of rain in the Condon area. Lighter and heavier amounts were recorded in other locations. Over 1.5 inches of rain were recorded in areas along the border between Gilliam and Morrow counties. However, dry conditions are still impacting wheat in the northern part of the county.

HARNEY: Spring grains planted. Alfalfa and meadows being irrigated. Rain helped conditions. Cattle being moved to new fields. Rain on Monday and scattered showers Saturday. Sunny and warm. Hard frost mid-week, with 22 degree temperatures.

HOOD RIVER: In the lower Hood River Valley, growers have begun hand thinning Bartlett pears. With continued dry conditions, some growers have started irrigating. The first cherry fruit fly was caught in Hood River on March 14.

KLAMATH: Rain and snow showers visited the basin. Potato planting continues, about 30 percent planted. Crops are looking good. The water year classification has been changed from below average to dry. Warm weather early in the season has created additional demands for irrigation water.

LAKE: Received precipitation at the beginning of the week and also on the weekend. Most producers have begun to irrigate.

MALHEUR: Rain showers in parts of the county last week helped hold the range conditions even. A lot of alfalfa was down and got rained on. Pressure on the irrigation reservoirs eased for a little while. Some areas may have received a little frost.

MORROW: Crop year precipitation (8.79 inches) is close to long term average, but previous four years of drought and poor subsoil moisture are affecting this year's wheat and barley crop. Twenty percent of the fall wheat is now blue and grain-fill will be impacted significantly. Remainder of the crop will be average (or a little less) if significant rainfall occurs in the next ten days. Spring grains (wheat, barley, and oats) are in the fully-tillered-to-early-boot stage of growth and look very good. Next ten days will be critical for these crops as well.

SHERMAN: Wheat started heading early this week. Found some sawfly in wheat and some more black grass bugs in grasses. The grass bugs have moved a little ways into the wheat in some locations but are not posing a serious threat to big acres at this time. Typical fieldwork continues. Wheat prices down, gas and diesel prices up. Marketing techniques are helping growers cope.

UNION: Weather extremes continuing. Frost one day, 70 degrees the next. Good moisture in some parts of the county this week. This week started off with two days of rain, followed by a few days of fair weather, and then ended with once again two days of rain. All in all, a very good week for crops, feed, and pasture. This week also saw some additional snowfall at the higher elevations, but it is still too early to tell if it was significant enough to impact potential summer water shortages.

WALLOWA: Good moisture received during the first part of the week has helped the crops, but ponds, springs, and creeks in the dryland areas are very much below normal. Some livestock producers are hauling water and will probably have to use some of their other pastures earlier than normal. Irrigation from Wallowa Lake is scheduled to begin May 15 but it could be later. Keep sending the rain!

WASCO: Sweet cherries are nearing pit hardening and beginning to turn to a straw color. Crop remains approximately ten days ahead of schedule. Monday and Tuesday were cool and windy, while at mid-week it warmed up with a continued light wind blowing. Showers occurred Saturday afternoon, slightly helping pasture grasses and spring planted crops. The wind through the week hampered ground spraying on cereal crop fields. Early wheat areas are heading out and most wild rye plants along roads and scattered in wheat fields are fully headed out. Rouging crews are eliminating the rye plants from the cereal crop fields. Shallow spots are starting to show up in wheat fields, indicating soil moisture is short. More rain would help. Activity in fruit orchards included irrigation, spraying, and mowing grass strips between tree rows. Early Royal Anne cherries are starting to show pink color. Alfalfa is starting to bloom and several fields were swathed. The alfalfa weevils are heavily infecting the alfalfa hay fields in the Dufur valley and causing stem damage. Aerial spraying of the alfalfa fields continued through the week. Livestock on range and pasture grasses are doing quite well in most areas, while open ranges are getting browner.

WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING May 16, 2004 (as of 11:00 am)

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	39	64	54	3	32	16	0.12	-0.56	2	56.43	-3.83	94	164
Crescent City	43	61	53	0	26	-2	0.10	-0.60	1	52.14	-9.23	85	133
Florence	38	66	54	2	31	10	0.80	-0.07	5	66.95	-3.35	95	159
North Bend	45	63	55	2	35	13	0.33	-0.34	3	61.48	2.34	104	151
Tillamook	37	63	53	3	24	10	0.35	-0.67	2	74.74	-5.44	93	168
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Corvallis	39	72	57	4	51	20	0.08	-0.35	4	28.84	-10.42	73	118
Eugene	35	70	55	-1	35	-4	0.14	-0.35	3	35.86	-9.58	79	131
Hillsboro	40	69	55	1	35	2	0.09	-0.26	4	28.46	-5.40	84	138
McMinnville	35	69	53	-3	27	-11	0.10	-0.32	5	29.93	-10.21	75	136
Portland AP	44	71	57	2	54	8	0.25	-0.24	5	26.36	-5.87	82	133
Salem	39	69	55	2	38	8	0.09	-0.33	4	34.63	-1.03	97	140
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	39	80	57	-2	54	-6	0.27	-0.01	3	27.15	-2.16	93	109
Medford	39	78	58	0	56	3	0.16	-0.05	2	18.24	1.17	107	105
Roseburg AP	43	74	57	2	54	8	0.08	-0.27	1	30.72	0.47	102	125
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	33	69	50	-2	9	-7	0.49	0.24	3	14.42	3.11	127	80
Heppner	37	71	53	-3	22	-15	0.07	-0.28	5	11.14	-0.21	98	108
Hermiston AP	33	75	56	-4	42	-18	0.28	0.14	2	8.43	0.82	111	77
John Day	34	68	49	-5	7	-18	0.83	0.48	4	8.48	-1.31	87	93
Moro	35	72	54	2	29	5	0.17	-0.04	1	9.82	0.42	104	77
Pendleton AP	37	73	55	-3	36	-16	0.15	-0.06	2	10.49	0.41	104	82
The Dalles	41	78	60	7	73	43	0.00	-0.14	0	12.36	1.58	115	93
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Bend	33	68	48	-2	9	-5	0.07	-0.08	1	10.86	1.51	116	71
Burns AP	27	69	46	-5	1	-14	0.25	0.04	3	7.14	-0.46	94	71
Klamath Falls	27	69	48	-5	5	-18	0.37	0.16	1	10.97	-0.46	96	89
Lakeview	30	66	44	-7	0	-16	0.06	-0.27	2	8.23	-4.64	64	53
Redmond	28	71	50	-2	10	-5	0.00	-0.14	0	7.37	0.90	114	71
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	25	66	46	-6	0	-20	0.57	0.29	5	5.53	-1.80	75	75
Joseph	31	68	48	2	7	4	1.14	0.71	5	10.31	-9.86	51	96
La Grande AP	30	68	48	-6	3	-26	0.89	0.54	5	9.46	-4.31	69	82
Union	29	67	47	-6	7	-13	1.00	0.65	5	10.84	0.95	110	99
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	35	74	53	-7	26	-40	0.25	0.11	5	7.14	-0.79	90	59
Rome	27	74	51	-5	13	-25	0.22	0.01	4	4.60	-1.38	77	58

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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